

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 2, 7, 9, 16, 18, 20, and 22-24 have been amended.

Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-24 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 7, and 18-21 are independent claims. This amendment does not differ in substance from the amendment previously submitted, for which it is a substitute by the request of the USPTO.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. Indeed, all of the present amendments are merely to clarify by correcting typographical errors in the previous version of the claims.

Entry of the Amendments is respectfully requested because entry of Amendment places the present application in condition for allowance. No new matters are believed to be added by these Amendments. In view of the above amendments and the previously submitted remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections for the reasons discussed in the prior communication.

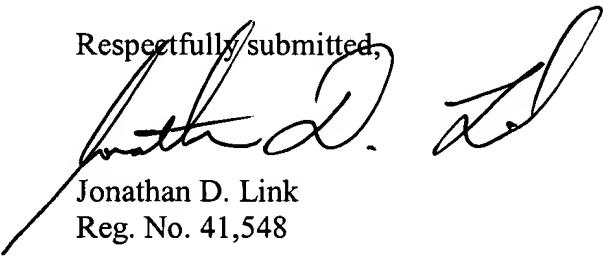
CONCLUSION

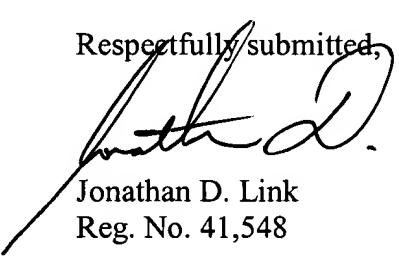
Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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